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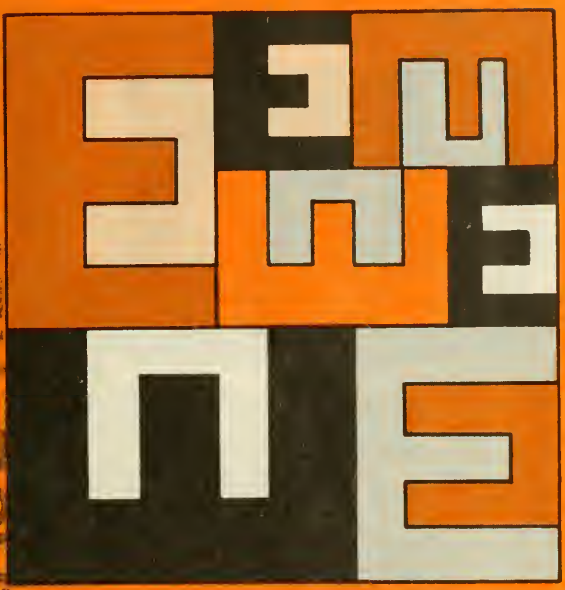
VISUAL SERVICES



PLEASE RETURN

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Do you or someone you know have sight problems that make it difficult to find or keep a job or to live independently? If so, read on.

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Visual services.
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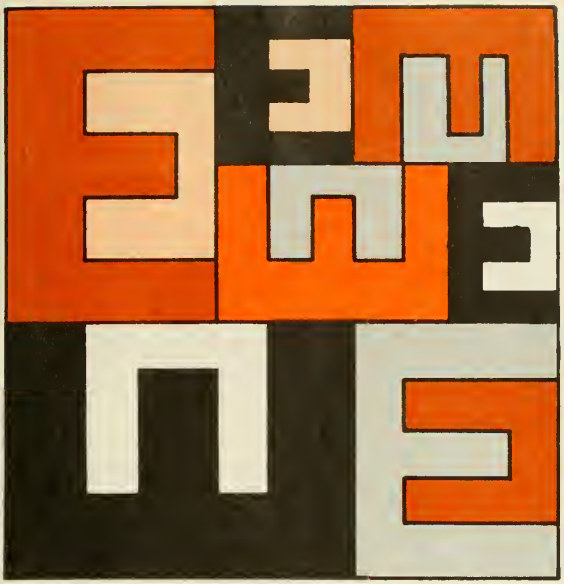
Always remember
a blind person is
first and foremost
a person and
secondly a person
who does not see.



VISUAL SERVICES

People with a visual disability which is a handicap to employment may be eligible for Montana's Visual Services Program. If you are eligible, possible services include:

Evaluation through medical/psychological tests to determine the extent of your disability and find out the kinds of work for which you are well-suited

Medical treatment to restore or maintain your vision

Instruction on how to move about inside and outside your home, how to carry out everyday

activities (such as handwriting, cooking, managing money, studying) and how to use your remaining vision with the aid of magnifiers, large print materials, heavily lined paper and other devices

Vocational services to help you reach your work potential:

- counseling and guidance to help you choose work for which you're well suited
- training in a college, vocational/technical school, tutorial or correspondence program food or vending machine services or on-the-job to prepare you for the work you plan to do
- financial help, if needed, to help you pay living and transportation costs during training

APPLYING FOR VISUAL SERVICES

To apply for Visual Services, you may write or call the office whose address and phone number are on the back of this brochure. A Visual Services counselor will schedule a time to talk privately with you about your circumstances.

If you can't get to your local Visual Services office, let the counselor know. The interview can be arranged at a more convenient spot—your home, a Job Service office or the local human services office.

ELIGIBILITY BASICS

To find out if you are eligible for visual services, the counselor will need to know certain information:

- your social security number
- the nature of your disability and when it began
- how your disability limits your skills and opportunities
- any medical or psychological treatment you have received (including the names and addresses of your doctors and the dates of treatments)

- the type of any medication you're now taking
- the type of any prosthetic device, or aid you're now using
- the names, ages and relationship to you of the people you live with
- your military service
- your work history
- the schools or training you've attended
- how you are meeting your living costs

The counselor will ask you to choose a doctor who will give you a free physical and an eye exam.

YOUR RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Any information provided by you or obtained through verification is not open to the public. *ALL* records and information about your situation are kept in confidence.

YOUR NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY

Your counselor will let you know whether or not you are eligible for visual services. If your application is not approved, you may ask your counselor for a hearing.

If you are eligible, you and a counselor will jointly develop your program of services.

This is an equal opportunity program. If you believe you've been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap, political beliefs or religion, write or call the Human Rights Commission, Capitol Station, Helena, Montana 59620.

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY

If you receive visual services, you will be expected to:

- contribute toward the cost of your rehabilitation program to the fullest extent you can
- report any changes in your health and finances at the regular meetings with your counselor
- identify any other forms of support you receive
- take part in the annual review of your rehabilitation program

- cooperate in carrying out your program and make reasonable efforts on your own behalf such as keeping appointments and attending scheduled activities
- earn acceptable grades or ratings at training and other such activities
- comply with medical or other professional instructions

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
P.O. Box 4210, 111 No. Sanders St., Helena, Montana 59604

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